

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ7453

E22

PAGE 01 CARACA 02316 01 OF 03 081151Z
ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	PM-00	ACE-00	TEST-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/005W					

-----D66675 081151Z /38

R 081124Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7086
INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN PART
B7(C), B7(D)

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 002316

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
INR FOR FERNANDEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: AUGUST 6-7, 2002

SUMMARY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 02316 01 OF 03 081151Z
1. IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ, THE COMACATES INFORMED THAT THEY WILL NOT INITIATE A COUP, BUT WILL DEFEND CIVILIANS FROM "TERRORIST CHAVISTA" ATTACKS WHEN NECESSARY. DEMONSTRATIONS RELATED TO THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE, AND REACHED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TODAY. WHILE GOV DENIED SUPPORTING THE ARMED, SELF-NAMED CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP, OPPOSITION LEADERS AND THE COMACATES ARE CONVINCED THAT GOV IS BACKING THEM. ALCALDE MAYOR ALFREDO PENA ASKED THE STATE PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE SOURCE OF THE WEAPONS USED BY THE CARAPAICAS, AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL CHALLENGE CHAVEZ'S BAN OF METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM) HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS IN THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL. 7.62 AND 5.56-MM ROUNDS WERE RECOVERED FROM THE PM'S "BALLENA" STRUCK DURING FRIDAY'S SHOOTING. RESIDENTS OF THE 23 DE ENERO NEIGHBORHOOD ACCUSED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 09 AUG 2005 200400111

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD
REASON(S): B7(C), B7(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 27 AUG 2007 200400111
UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PM OF ATTACKING CIVILIANS IN THE FRIDAY SHOOTINGS, AND THE TUPAMAROS WILL MARCH WITH THEM TOMORROW TO THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL. END SUMMARY.

COMACATES DEMAND THAT CHAVEZ RESIGN

2. ENDING WHAT THEY CALLED A "PREMEDITATED SILENCE," THE COMACATES, 11 DE ABRIL MOVEMENT, RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC ARENA BY SENDING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ CALLING HIM A TRAITOR AND URGING HIM TO RESIGN. THE LETTER WARNS THE CIVIL SOCIETY NOT TO RETURN TO A GOVERNMENT LIKE THAT OF "THE FOURTH REPUBLIC" AND PROMOTES THE NEED FOR A UNIFIED, REMODELED, AND COHERENT OPPOSITION. IT ALSO WARNS THE CIVIL SOCIETY NOT TO BE FOOLED BY THOSE WHO PROPOSE A COUP AS A

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 02316 01 OF 03 081151Z
QUICK AND EASY SOLUTION. THE MESSAGE ASSURES THAT THE COMACATES HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF STAGING A COUP, BUT STATES THAT IF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZES A COUP ITSELF AND IS ATTACKED BY "TERRORIST CHAVISTA GROUPS," THE COMACATES WILL INTERVENE TO DEFEND THE CIVILIANS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE SO-CALLED CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP, THE COMACATES INFORM THAT THEY KNOW WHO RUNS THEM, NAMING SIX RETIRED NATIONAL ARMED FORCES OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS MAYOR FREDDY BERNAL, VICE-PRESIDENT JOSE VICENTE RANGEL AND PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. THEY DENOUNCE THE URBAN PRESENCE OF A GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, LIKENING THE SITUATION TO THE ONE THAT LED TO THE CURRENT WAR IN COLOMBIA, AND STATE THAT THEY WILL NOT PERMIT CHAVEZ TO REPRODUCE COLOMBIA IN VENEZUELA. LASTLY, THE LETTER ADVISES THE CIVIL SOCIETY TO ORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN ITSELF, ENDING WITH AN APPEAL: "REMOVE HIM, AND WE WILL SUPPORT YOU MILITARILY."

DEMONSTRATIONS REACH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

4. TODAY, AUGUST 7, THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL (TSJ) SUSPENDED, UNTIL TOMORROW, ITS SESSION ON THE CASE OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ACCUSED OF REBELLION. PRO-CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUED PROTESTING FOR THE MILITARY OFFICERS TO BE PUT ON TRIAL. AROUND 1700 NATIONAL GUARD (GN) FORCES, AND 1000 METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM) OFFICERS, AND MAYOR BERNAL'S CARACAS POLICE WERE DEPLOYED AT THE TSJ. AROUND MIDDAY, THE DEMONSTRATORS MOVED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING, TO PRESENT A WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE

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Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: n/a

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PAGE 04 CARACA 02316 01 OF 03 081151Z
REPRESENTATIVES. PRO-GOVERNMENT DIPUTADOS, TAREK WILLIAM
SAAB, IRIS VARELA, AND OTHER CAME OUT TO ENCOURAGE THE
CROWD.

GOV DENIED SUPPORT FOR ARMED GROUP

5. ON AUGUST 5, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ DENIED GOV'S SUPPORT FOR
THE SELF-NAMED CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP, WHICH CLAIMS
TO HAVE SHOT AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FROM THE 23 DE ENERO
NEIGHBORHOOD LAST FRIDAY. HE STATED THAT THE GOV DOES NOT
NEED ARMED OR PARAMILITARY GROUPS TO DEFEND IT, SINCE THE
GOV HAS THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
JOSE VICENTE RANGEL SUPPORTED CHAVEZ'S STATEMENT, ADDING
THAT THE EXECUTIVE DOES NOT AGREE WITH CALLS FROM GOV
SUPPORTERS FOR VIOLENT PROTESTS. VP VOICED SUSPICION THAT
THE PRESS CONFERENCE BROADCASTED LAST SUNDAY WAS MADE BY THE
OPPOSITION, SINCE IT WAS BIASED, AND DAMAGING TO THE GOV.
PRESIDENT CHAVEZ SAID THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE INDIVIDUALS
BELONGING TO THE CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP AND ADMITTED
THAT ANARCHICAL GROUPS EXIST. HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THEY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ7454

PAGE 01 CARACA 02316 02 OF 03 081151Z
ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	UTED-00
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	PM-00	ACE-00	TEST-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/005W					

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R 081124Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087
INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 002316

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

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E.O. 12958: N/A
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BELONG TO THE OPPOSITION, BUT HE AFFIRMED THAT THEY ARE
DISRUPTIVE TO SOCIETY.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 02316 02 OF 03 081151Z
PENA WANTS HIS HELICOPTER

6. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, ALFREDO PENA, ALCALDE MAYOR OF CARACAS, ASKED THE STATE PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE ARMS SUPPLIES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, THE ARMY, THE AIR FORCE, MIRAFLORES, AND FUERTE TIUNA TO DETERMINE IF THE WEAPONS THAT WOUNDED METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICERS AND PASSERS-BY ON FRIDAY AUGUST 2, USED BY THE SO-CALLED CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP, WERE SUPPLIED BY THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES (FAN). PENA REMINDED FAN OFFICIALS AND SOLDIERS THAT ONLY THE STATE MILITARY AND SECURITY ORGANISMS ARE PERMITTED BY LAW TO POSSESS FIREARMS, AND HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY FAN WOULD ALLOW THEIR MONOPOLY TO BE CHALLENGED BY AN URBAN GUERRILLA GROUP. "IF THIS HAD HAPPENED IN CUBA, FIDEL WOULD HAVE SHOT THEM WITH A BAZOOKA," HE ASSURED. PENA ASKED THE FAN TO DISSOLVE THE CARAPAICA GROUP, FOR WHICH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ EXPRESSED SUPPORT ON SUNDAY, AND CALLED GOV THE ONLY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD THAT PROMOTES DISRUPTION AND VIOLENCE.

7. RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S BAN ON METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM) HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS, PENA ASSERTED THAT CHAVEZ LACKS THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SUCH A BAN. ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS, ONLY THE MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE HAS THE COMMAND TO PROHIBIT PM HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS, SAID PENA. PENA PLANS TO GO TO THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL AND TO THE FIRST COURT OF LITIGIOUS ADMINISTRATION TO DENOUNCE CHAVEZ'S MANDATE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HELICOPTER AS THE "EYES" OF THE PM. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE PM WAS PROHIBITED FROM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 02316 02 OF 03 081151Z
FLYING ITS HELICOPTER ON APRIL 11, THE SHOOTERS OF LLAGUNO BRIDGE KILLED 18 PEOPLE, WHEREAS IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF LAST FRIDAY, DURING USE OF THE HELICOPTER, THERE WERE NO

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DEATHS.

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23 DE ENERO RESIDENTS CLAIM POLICE ATTACKED THEM

7. RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM WESTERN CARACAS GATHERED TODAY AT THE 23 DE ENERO NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, IN WHICH THEIR LEADER, OSWALDO RIVERO, DENOUNCED THE ATTACK BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE (PM) THAT THEY ALLEGEDLY SUFFERED ON FRIDAY AUGUST 2. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE EVENTS FRIDAY BEGAN WITH A CIVIC DEMONSTRATION WHICH WAS UNFORTUNATELY INTERVENED BY A GROUP OF HOODED FIGURES CARRYING WEAPONS. THOSE ARMED STRANGERS WERE THE ONES WHO SHOT AT THE PM, HE ASSERTS, NOT THE 23 DE ENERO RESIDENTS. NEXT, A SHARPSHOOTER BEGAN SHOOTING AGGRESSIVELY AT A GROUP OF BYSTANDERS NEAR 23 DE ENERO FROM THE PM HELICOPTER, WHILE TEARGAS BOMBS WERE ALSO BEING DROPPED. RIVERO SAID THAT

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VIDEOS TAKEN OF THE INCIDENT SHOW THAT THE PM, AND NOT THE RESIDENTS, WERE THE ONES ATTACKING THE PUBLIC.

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02316 03 OF 03 081151Z
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	SAS-00	/005W					

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R 081124Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088
INFO NSC WASHDC
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UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 002316

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TUPAMAROS WILL MARCH TOMORROW

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PAGE 02 , CARACA 02316 03 OF 03 081151Z
8. THE TUPAMAROS, A PRO-CHAVEZ MILITANT GROUP, ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL MARCH ALONG WITH RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE 23 DE ENERO NEIGHBORHOOD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, TO THE SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL. THE MARCH WILL BE PEACEFUL, "GANDHI-STYLE", ITS PURPOSE BEING TO PRESENT TO THE COURT A DOCUMENT EXPLAINING THE REASONS JUSTIFYING THE TRIAL OF THE FIVE MILITARY OFFICERS ACCUSED OF REBELLION. THEY WILL ASK THAT THE DECISION BE RESPECTFUL OF THE SOVEREIGN PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA AND THE BOLIVARIAN PROCESS.

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9. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE TUPAMAROS, OSWALDO OLIVERO, SAID THAT THEY HAVE NO TIES WITH THE SO-CALLED CARAPAICA REVOLUTIONARY GROUP, AND THEY DO NOT KNOW IF THE GROUP COMES FROM THE RADICAL RIGHT OR LEFT. REFERRING TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE HOODED ARMED FIGURES AT THE DEMONSTRATIONS ON FRIDAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "IT WAS ALL A STRATEGY TO CREATE CONFUSION." HE DENOUNCED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FOR ATTACKING THE RESIDENTS OF 23 DE ENERO, SINCE NONE OF THE SHOTS CAME FROM THEM.

SHAPIRO

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